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AHRC MINUTES 01/15/2014

Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Senior Center – Conference Room

8:00 p.m.

Christine Carney, Chair

Minutes

Members Present: Sheri Baron, Marissa Briggett, Christine Carney (Chair,) Stacy Davison, Ghanda DiFiglia, Sharon Grossman, Gary Horowitz, Jorge Loayza, Nick Minton, Nancy Rhoads and Robin Varghese (Vice-Chair)

Members Absent: Douglass Davidoff and Mel Goldsipe

Others Present: Kelly Bruneau (Admin)

Citizen's Open Forum- None

Subcommittee Reports:

a. School Liaison Program: S. Grossman reported that while some Commissioners met with their assigned schools, others continued to experience difficulty reaching their school principals. As a result, S. Grossman e-mailed Kathy Bodie to encourage her to remind school principals that Commissioners would be reaching out. S. Davison reported that the Ottoson Middle School Building Respect Task Force met and discussed a drop in grades for METCO students partially related to racism in the school. N. Rhoads stated that she is aware of a Muslim student at the Middle or High School that was the target of racism and a related home robbery. S. Davison will follow up with the Ottoson school principal to encourage an investigation of the incident.

b. 20th Anniversary/10 year anniversary of Marriage Equality/Bill Shea Every Day Hero Award – S. Barron reported that she was able to secure the space for the event at the reduced rate of \$40.00 per hour. The subcommittee will work out the details of the event including contacting a same-sex married couple to speak about marriage and finding out who will accept the awards for Nancy Sweeney and William Shea. N. Minton will continue to work on drafting the historical timeline for the Commission.

c. Dialogues Schedule:

i. Rescue in the Philippines: C. Carney stated that *Rescue in the Philippines* is not eligible to be in the film festival so it will be shown in the high school media room in the fall. C. Carney will contact the producer and coordinate possible dates.

ii. Miss Representation: M. Briggett stated that the *Miss Representation* dialogue will take place on April 3rd or April 10th at the Ottoson Middle School. The Commission discussed the possibility of offering a speaker a small stipend. S. Davison will reach out to a potential speaker.

AHRC Brochure Update and Plans: N. Rhoads reported that M. Goldsipe will need to access Illustrator in order to edit the brochure files. If M. Goldsipe cannot gain access to Illustrator, Adam Glick has volunteered to complete the brochure for the Commission.

Hopi Teacher to Run Boston Marathon: M. Briggett reported that five Hopi adults would be coming to the area for the Boston Marathon and need a place to stay for the weekend. The adults are willing to stay at different homes and offered to cook a traditional Hopi potluck meal for host families and/or present at a school.

Support for MLK Day Event (January 20th): R. Varghese reported that he plans to attend the event and purchase two author signed books to present to Kerry Dunn on behalf of the Commission. The books cost about \$20.00 each. C. Carney will find out what R. Varghese will need to do in order to be reimbursed for the books. R. Varghese also posted the event on the Commission website and on the Facebook page.

Response Team Coordination: N. Rhoads stated that the team met on January 6th and plans to meet again in six months. The Commission reviewed the procedure that the team follows in response to a human rights violation. Including the procedure on the Commission website was discussed.

Finances Review: M. Briggett moved to set aside \$100.00 for a *Miss Representation* event speaker. R. Varghese seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried. Additional discussion took place and M. Briggett moved to amend the motion to set aside \$200.00 for a *Miss Representation* event speaker. R. Varghese seconded the amended motion. All were in favor and the motion carried as amended.

December Minutes: S. Barron moved to accept the minutes as amended. M. Briggett seconded the motion. Three abstained and eight were in favor and the motion carried.

Administrative items:

a. Monthly update: K. Bruneau (admin) and R. Varghese worked on the 2013 annual report. G. DiFiglia will proofread the report.

b. Review Rapid Response list & Mailing/Contact List: The rapid response list is a work in progress. S. Baron will look for the original mailing list signup sheets from past Town Days. C. Carney will ask the Clerk for a list of current Town Meeting members to include on the mailing list. In April, C. Carney will ask the Clerk for the updated list following the election. The Commission will continue to use social media to reach out to the community.

Incidents & Complaints: C. Carney reported that a tagging incident took place at Robbins Library and a derogatory term was written on a sign in the bathroom. R. Varghese will follow up with the resident with a swastika drawn in the snow on their car. G. DiFiglia reported that the algorithm used for the literature search results at the Robbins Library is complex and she plans to contact a Cambridge library representative for more information.

Book Donation in Honor of Nancy Sweeney: C. Carney contacted an Assistant Librarian at the Robbins Library and is waiting to be provided with a shopping list of books related to human rights issues for the Commission to purchase.

Website/Facebook Update: R. Varghese reported that he posted updates on the website and Facebook page including information about the Winchester Multicultural Network.

Outstanding Deliverables: -

a. Frequently Asked Questions: C. Carney reported that ten frequently asked questions have been completed. Eight were approved and two are under review. R. Varghese will post the approved frequently asked questions on the website.

C. Carney made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:31pm. S. Barron seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Submitted by:
Kelly Bruneau
Administrative Assistant